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A1505 Mission
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Also Mission

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DIARY
OF
VISITS TO GERMANY

MARCH - JULY

1945.



DIARY OF VISIT TO COLOGNE AND BONN 13-23rd March 1945

- 13 Mar. Message from Mrosowsky to say that W/C Cecil has found that Brandt used to live in Cologne. Decide to plan a visit to find out more about him and to give Adam a trial trip.
- 14 Mar. Message from W.O. to say that trip had been fixed and that Col Scott CWS had asked that Ferguson be included and that CWS would arrange for transport and billets for Adam and self.
- 15 Mar. To London by car in morning. Billets fixed at Nuffield officers club. Mrosowsky gives further details of Cecil's information which is that a Walter Brandt lived in Cologne at 180 Durenstrasse in 1938. He was at one time an anthropologist. See Wansborough Jones who says that all information about Brandt should be of value.
Saw Brigadier Spedding of Allied Control Commission in Berlin and gave him some data on Bw possibilities as might affect armies of occupation. Point out the investigation of sabotage is a matter of public health officers and that its detection and prevention might be almost impossible.
Notified by CIOS that we were leaving from Victoria by Boat Train at 8 a.m. next morning. Tickets collected from office and were told that we would be met at station at Paris and taken to Versailles.
Spent evening in club quietly and Adam had a severe headache.
- 16 Mar. Left Victoria at 8 a.m. At 10.30 boarded 'Isle of Thanet' and met Mumford and three civilians on his party going over to see a director of I.C. recently captured. At 17.00 left Dieppe for Paris on a very slow train running on a very uneven track and had a poor and very expensive meal.
Arrived at Paris at 22.15 to find there was no transport and the RTO had no idea how any could be arranged. About 15 mins later two taxis were announced for a Mr Barnes and a Mr Ferguson. There were no other claimants so we all got in and went to Versailles and found billets through the office.
- 17 Mar. Reported to T division at Shaef to Capt Llewellyn. Told that orders will be ready at 16.00 hours and transport has been fixed by CWS. Adam sees MO about t pain in his eye and apparent FB. Go into Paris and see Cromartie and Henze and contact Ferguson. He knew nothing about transport that arrived at station last night and said he could not get us billets in Paris under CWS as we had Shaef orders. Cannot fix transport from pool until Adam and I get orders, otherwise he will be given a jeep. Discuss Gand H's visit to Bonn and Cologne and find the only object of interest was the special fermentation tanks seen at Schmidding works nearing completion. They were for the Kalle Chemical works at Wiesbaden and had been on order 3 years so could not be wanted very urgently. No personnel were seen and two Hygiene institutes were destroyed. The other interesting item was the copy of the secret telephone directory of the Wehrmacht in Berlin which showed Kliewe's name in association with CW section.
Return to Versailles with Bill and Carl and Ferguson and get orders and give a copy to latter. Adam had an FB removed from eye which is better.
- 18 Mar. Adam and I go into Paris by train and meet Ferguson and see Eckmann. He suggests that we use base at Aachen if we want somewhere to stay. Very welcome invitation. At 2.30 after lunch with Ferguson in casual office's mess learn that transport is all right for the morning and arrange early start.
- 19 Mar. 8.30 Collected from Versailles by Ferguson and leave CWS at 9.15. A very pleasant journey up through France and down the Meuse valley. Liege very dirty. Delayed by a lorry in the river at one spot and also a flat tire.
19.15 Reach Aachen and find Alsos HQ. Take there and provides excellent meal and beds,
- 20 Mar. 9.00 leave Alsos and report in Cologne at 'T' Force Hq at 11.30. The journey partly along autobahn and then off this through Duren in which there does not appear to be a house standing. Some of the villages badly damaged; others almost in tact. Cologne is a complete wreck with only a very occasional building even more or less in tact.
At T force go through usual formalities and get a pass and find route to Schmidding works. Go along after lunch to the M.G office and see the public health officer. He advises to see Prof Hagemann as the only bacteriologist he knows; and to make more enquiries at the divisional surgeon's office and see a Capt Burns. Visit Schmidding works and see the tanks but can report nothing of interest. The works was under fire the previous night because of traffic movements and we



were asked to walk in and not drive. Get Hagemann's address from surgeon's office and find him in a partly wrecked house where he has his laboratory. He used to work at Cologne Hygiene Institute and published papers on fluorescent microscopy which we know of... He spoke very little English and information difficult to gather. He said that Mueller the director of the Institute was an invalid and living at a village outside Cologne and he didn't think he could give much information of interest. The institute was evacuated to Bad Godesberg and he knew Silter the director of the Bonn institute who was interested in TB therapy. He had never heard of Kliewe and said that Haag was head of Hygiene institute at Giessen which was destroyed 2-4 months ago. He had heard of the name Brandt in Cologne but did not know him at all. He said that Eichhoff the German surgeon at the Cologne hospital whom we were going to see was not a strong Nazi as he was put in charge of this big Catholic hospital.

Thought that this amateur laboratory in a broken house was not exactly ideal. Returned to hospital to see Eichhoff and were given a meal in the mess. Met Capt Burns who knew Eichhoff well and said that he never talked anything but medicine, he didn't know his political views. He has told them a bit about German medical developments. He says that Hagemann claims to be an anti-Nazi and says that he was in a concentration camp for a time and has never been in the Wehrmacht. Burns told us about the typhus in Cologne which was appearing at the rate of 200 cases a week when they came in with 80% death rate. There were only 8 new cases last week and there has been an extensive policy of dusting the bunkers and the civilians. The German MOs are being co-opted and doing well. Left at 19.15 as Eichhoff not yet back and arrange to have him stay for us in the morning.

21 Mar. Return to quarters in the floor in a flat on edge of city next to T force.
8.00 See Eichhoff at hospital. He speaks fair English and his daughter was over there with friends just before the war. He qualified in Breslau and went to Munster and came to Cologne 12 years ago and is not connected with the University. Says that von Haberer lives across the river and he was not popular as he was an aggressive and unpleasant man. In 1939 Eichhoff was in charge of a 1000 bed military hospital in Cologne. After the bombing started in 1941 it was evacuated and he was sent as consulting surgeon to an army in Russia (North). He spent his time touring hospitals and giving the surgeons instruction. 1943 had severe tonsillitis and followed by arthritis and was invalided out and came back in charge of this civilian hospital in Cologne. He said he had heard of Morell but knew nothing about him except that he was a nonentity. He had never heard of a Walter Brandt in Cologne but knew Dr Carl Brandt of the Fuhrer's HQ. He was young man who had been an assistant of Julius in Munich but had never published anything of importance. His present job acting as liaison between civilian and military administration. He did not know if he had any special fields of interest but he would have access to every field of medicine. He had once met him when he came to Cologne on Hitler's order to see Keitel's son who was a patient. Eichhoff knew Wolfgang Wirth who was a good character and of great ability as a scientist. He was nephew of Leopold who was a great friend of Eichhoff. He knew he had been working on CW in Berlin since 1939 but his work was secret and he had seen no publications from Wirth. He had never heard of Kliewe. Handloser was an old soldier of the best type and very helpful to his juniors and was not a Nazi. His position must be very difficult. The Military Med Academy in Berlin was now under Gunderloch who was a medical specialist. He said he had had little contact with Berlin recently as letters might take up to 4 months on the way. Asked about Strasbourg he said it was notoriously a Nazi stronghold and more so than other German universities. He did not know Bickenbach.

11.30 Arrived at Bonn after getting a permit from 1st Army HQ at Euskirchen. This town pretty well destroyed but the country round looked well cared for and prosperous. There was good deal of traffic on the roads and went by bye roads. Bonn is destroyed in patches but not nearly so extensively as Cologne. There was one of these concrete bunkers about 4 stories high with tiny slit windows standing in the centre of the town. The city offices were in tact and we saw the M.G. The health officer had met a number of German medicals including the prof of Pathology, Ceelen. He referred us to an address where we might find them but the place was completely destroyed. No one including a native of the city had ever heard of any new tunnels being built in the centre of the city.

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We visited the Animal Physiology Institute which was partly destroyed and were taken round by the caretaker. There had been no work done for a year. There was a metabolism unit with a Benedict calorimeter for two sheep and metabolism pens for the animals. The old professor had been to America and actually Benedict had visited this institute. No bacteriological work had been done here. We left with a feeling of depression to see this centre of pure academic research in such derelict shape.

Went to the Animal Hygiene Lab near the river and saw the director Prof Eichmann. He only spoke German but we managed to get some information out of him on veterinary problems. He showed us vaccine from Reims and said he knew Waldmann. The institute there was said to be like a factory. The only organism they grew apart from their routine tests was some B abortus vaccine from the avirulent strain. Permission to use this vaccine was granted again in 1942 after a prohibition in 1938. The problem of abortus fever was serious. Eichmann said he was at school with Richters of the Army Vet Research school. He said the latter was interested in glanders and had described a complement fixation test for it. They had no cases in Germany but it occurred in N Africa and Russia. He showed us detailed charts of the incidence of foot and mouth disease and swinepest in all the provinces of Germany apparently emanating from Berlin in Jan 1945.

Left Bonn at 15.30 and reached Aachen at 18.00. Had another excellent meal

- 22 Mar. 7.00 Left Aachen and had a pleasant journey through the same country except that we turned off and came through Soissons and Laon instead of Rheims
 17.30 Reached Paris and after driver had had supper went out to Versailles. Saw Eckmann for a few minutes. Bill and Carl had left for Ludwigshafen that morning and Hofer was due in and was following them in the morning. Eckman suggests that we go too. See Mrosowsky in Versailles and decide that Adam should go while I return to London to try to get better orders etc. This going to and fro to Versailles is hopeless waste of time.
- 23 Mar See T force and arrange for orders for Adam to Ludwigshafen with Alsos transport and get orders for my return next morning. See Eckmann and he suggests getting orders from London attaching us temporarily to Alsos so that he can then administer orders etc for us.

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A1505 Mission

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DIARY OF VISIT TO GERMANY MARCH 30th - May 12th 1945.

- 29th Mar. Message from MI 10 that orders through to proceed to Paris tomorrow. To London by car and after some difficulty find the orders at Bryanston Squ. Spend night at Q.E officers club.
- 30th Mar. Leave from Croydon on BTC plane at 10.15 and arrive at Le Bouchet 11.30 after moderately rough crossing. Meet Adam and Hofer at British HQ after ringing Alsos and have lunch at Officers Club.. Adam has arrangements in hand for his return to U.K. tonight by train done through CLOS. Carl and Bill are at Frankfurt and there is a provisional plan for a general meeting at Aachen on Apr 4th when it is hoped that Adam and Ferguson will be back. Register with ETOUSA and get PX card and billet at Monceau. At 15.00 there is report into Alsos office that Heidelberg is available and Jesse and I to go down to Strasbourg to await arrival of message from Col Pash to go on to Heidelberg. Leave Adam at ~~Heidelberg~~ Versailles after explaining how he is to get orders from Welchman attaching him to Alsos. Spend quiet evening at Monceau ready for early start next day.
- 31st Mar. 8.00 Leave Paris with Augustine and Hofer and two CIC men in separate jeep. Uneventful journey through St Dixier, Nancy, Saarebourg Luneville and Nancy. The area is very empty of troops and army HQ have left Saarebourg recently. 17.30 Reach Alsos Hq in Strasbourg but no message from Col Pash. Comfortably housed and only Ceramie and two or three men in the place.
- 1st Apr. Easter Sunday and a fine day with many people on the streets and much ringing of church bells. Spent the day indoors with target lists and maps and go for a walk after the usual immense lunch. Return at 16.00 to find a CIC man from Col Pash to say that Alsos have several houses in the town and we are to go up next morning and that arrangements are to be made to move whole place in a few days. Spend a busy evening helping to pack the trailer and moving stores etc. The only idle hand is a physicist named Lane a natty piece of work though supposed to be good at his job.
- 2nd Apr. 9.30 Leave Strasbourg after a delay due to difficulties with a tyre change. Go north via Wissensheim, Neustadt through the Siegfried line which shows some but not many signs of severe fighting. The villages along the road are smashed but those only a short distance off the road appear to be more or less in tact. The road was narrow with a poor surface and there was much delay with a French convoy running with us and an American coming against us. There seemed to be a complete lack of any proper road control with long blocks and cars pushing past and blocking both lanes. After Neustadt the country becomes completely flat and the Rhine valley is all intensely cultivated and looks very prosperous. The people are busy in the fields and vineyards. Landau and Frankenthal are badly damaged and then a good road into Ludwigshafen. This town is patchily damaged but did not go past the I.G. works. Crossed the river on a pontoon bridge after only a very short wait. The river is very fast flowing and some sunken vessels along the quays. Mannheim on the other side at first looks to be in good shape but going through it shows that all the main buildings are gutted and hardly a complete one seen. This destruction is on the scale of Cologne. The road to Heidelberg is good and the town is undamaged. Every big building has a Red Cross or Red square on the roof. There is one pontoon bridge in use and all the road bridges are completely demolished with just the foundations of the piers left visible. Alsos has a fine house on the hill on Philosophen Weg and there is a grand view up and down the valley. The house is built on a lavish scale with balconies and excellent furniture but all the beds have gone except one enormous bed on a dais. Learn that this was a summer resort of a director of I.G resident in Berlin and now tenanted by a brewer's chemist from Mannheim. The occupiers are being allowed a few days to remove their belongings - an unusual concession and strict instructions not to remove any souvenirs. Beds and mattresses fixed up and there is a mess with T force in the town. Col Pash and some of the military members are in another house a couple of miles up the river. There has been little fighting in the town and troops are said now to be just short of Wurzburg and finding it tough going. The French are said to have crossed the Rhine at Speyer but are believed to have got stuck already outside Karlsruhe.
- 3rd Apr. Go down in morning to T force to get pass. Meet a characteristically stupid situation when one cannot get into the building without a pass even though the object of the visit is to obtain a pass. After some difficulty get inside and then have no difficulty in getting my own pass and one for Hofer without showing any sort of identification for him. 9.30 Visit KWI for Medical research with Hofer and the place is in tact and guarded. Kuhn had been held but was now released and was out but expected back. Started talking to one of his assistants and another from the Physics section who had been working on the electron microscope. Gave us some data on Ruska and said

that he had gone to Riems to study foot and mouth disease virus. Kuhn's assistant was telling us about the work on the new antibiotic said to be better than penicillin and the oil said to be a cure for mustard burns. He was just off to try to get some samples for us when Kuhn walked in. He gave a hasty suspicious glance round the room and sent the assistant brusquely out of the room. He said that he had been interviewed the previous day by two Americans but we made it clear that we also wanted to talk to him. He then settled down and seemed quite willing to talk. He was obviously nervous and was the most shifty eyed man I had ever seen and had a nasty rat like expression. He spoke quite good English and told us about this new antibiotic which he had compared against penicillin captured from Normandy and which he assumed to be 10% pure. He showed us a pair of graphs indicating that in vitro it was better against a strain of staph albus but no different against staph aureus. He said that it had improved a case of staph septicaemia. This was peculiar case said to be staph albus and to have been going on for two years. They had also tried it against gonococci in a few chronic cases in women and instilled into the uterus. There was a small clinic with a few beds in the institute where he normally did clinical trials but this was full of officers. There is a big hospital across the road which also is affiliated to the institute. He told us about a cyclo deka pentane which was a by-product of the buna process and which was active against B coli at one in a million in vitro. It was also said to be an antidote against mustard and he said that put on up to 3 hours after the mustard it would prevent blisters. He had not done the trials and some of the pharmacology of this drug had been done by Domagk. He said that he did not have much of either of them and the Americans yesterday had taken his small supply. His other work had been in the field of nutrition and they had found that with very highly purified casein fed to rats the animals developed liver damage and that this damage could be prevented by feeding Vit E. We did not go into details about all this work as it was not our field and we assumed that others would be covering it.

Research We asked about the Nazi influence in the Institute and he said that one of their was the leading Nazi and that he was at present under arrest. The institute is divided into two sections. One is physics and his is chemistry. It seems odd to have these divisions in an institute called one for medical research. He said that the KWI's were supported by voluntary contributions some of which came from industry etc. Kuhn knew Bickenbach well when he was in Heidelberg and B used to do clinical trials for Kuhn. He said that as far as he knew B was at a hospital in Bad Mergentheim. He said that his own son had worked with Bickenbach in Strasbourg. He said that B was interested in the mode of carriage of drugs vitamins, hormones etc in the blood stream. This friendship all suggests that Kuhn was also a good Nazi ~~before the war~~. We saw round the chemical section which had quite nice laboratories not very old but the equipment was all locked up below. There was moderate sized animal house. We also saw the electron microscope and a fine fluorescent microphotographic apparatus used for bacterial work. They had been particularly interested in lymphgranuloma and we saw a few photographs of amorphous particles which they said were the virus. The man doing this work seemed very young and we were surprised that he should not be in the army.

Had lunch at T force which is a shocking Mess with no facilities and a low standard of hygiene surprising in the American army. Saw a W/C Mills who is with CIOS and said to be covering CW. Told him about Kuhn's oil and he was to go over to see him. While there Carl and Bill arrive from Frankfurt. They found nothing specific but got interesting data from the State serum Institute and the I.G at Hoechst. The latter is an enormous plant and quite undamaged. The director seemed to think this was because they were I.G. ! They had arranged for the directors of these places to prepare reports on what they had been doing. After lunch the four of us visit the Hygiene Institute in Heidelberg and see round with the assistant director; the director Rodenwald was under arrest as he was an officer but he had been released and would be in the next day. The place was obviously a very ordinary institute with most work devoted to teaching and routine examinations. The only research was a little genetics and some experiments with shiga dysentery which they said they could use to produce lesions in the bladders of guinea pigs. There was quite a small lecture room and they said they had 3-500 students a year so they must have been very cramped. There was a remarkable lack of apparatus to be seen so this was presumably locked away. We went over to the Serology institute which was started as a cancer research institute and still bore this name. Sachs had been put in charge after the last war and built up the serum side until he was thrown out by the Nazis. They were only engaged in W.R.s as far as we could see. The director had advanced lupus and was a pitiable sight.

We then visited the medical officer of health and asked to see copies of all directives sent to him from Berlin or his senior local authority. This was to see if anything had ever been said about precautions against a possible BW attack. There was nothing about this. There was much about midwives and very recently a notice drawing attention to the value of BCG inoculation for TB and this was to be encouraged in volunteers. There has been a great increase in TB in older people. They had a little typhus locally from Polish workers but no serious epidemics.

4th Apr. During the morning one of the Alsos striking force had been sent up to Bad Mergentheim to try and pick up Bickenbach but he returned to say the place was not yet occupied.

Enze and I went to see Rodenwald and found him at the Institute. He has a very military bearing and is neat and smart and doesn't look his age. He speaks a moderate amount of English and most of the discussion was in English. He was formally polite but no opening of doors or bowing us out. He was ready to talk all about his own career and his work on tropical diseases in the East Indies where he had spent a number of years working for the Dutch Govt. He only returned to Germany on leave in 1934 and it was pointed out to him that he ought to stay and not return. This he did and was director of the Hygiene Institute in Kiel for a year and then came to Heidelberg. He had worked on malaria from the preventive aspects and also the study of immunity in dysentery. He believed in a mixed bacterial and anatoxin vaccine for the latter and said he had ~~fixed~~ statistical evidence to support his views. He was steered to the war and said he was chief consultant in Hygiene (Tropical Diseases). His work was entirely in the Balkans and Italy and he was not in N Africa. He pointed out that everyone stuck to their own field and so he did not know anything about typhus which came under the other director of Hygiene - Zeiss. This care about sticking to one's field was due to the chances of reporting and comment going back to higher quarters and apparently one didn't always know just where one was in relation to the higher authorities. Malaria had been a great problem in Greece in 1941 because they were not prepared for the campaign. Measures of control were soon established and by 1942 all was under control. Then the occupation was handed over to the Italians and in 1944 things were as bad as ever when the Germans returned. He said as an example that in Albania, the most malarious country in Europe the German army only had 600 cases of malaria. They were keen on netting and had used DDT for house spraying but not on any bigger scale. Atebrin was used as a prophylactic and here results depended entirely on the discipline of the unit. He had seen very little Leshmaniasis and those few cases were in Crete. Here the disease is common among the population. He also described an outbreak of small pox among the troops in Greece spread from a man who caught it in Turkey. All the cases were amongst men who had been vaccinated within the last three years and there were two deaths. This caused them to revise their opinion of the efficacy of vaccination over a period of years. He knew of two small outbreaks of cholera among the Russian population on the Eastern front but the spread was rapidly controlled by vaccination. He said that trench nephritis was common and though many believed that it was an infection he believed that it was related to metabolic disturbances due to wet and cold.

He said that Eric Martini in Italy was his subordinate and he himself had visited Italy on occasions. Asked about the deliberate flooding of the Pontine marshes and the breaking of the pumps etc he said that he had told the military what would be the result of this destruction but the decision to do it was taken by a general whom he would not name. His comment was that anyway they could be rebuilt in two years. He was obviously no lover of his ex-allies and typically German in his attitude to the sufferings of other people.

He was then asked about chemical warfare and said he knew nothing about it. He said he knew Wirth was working in the Military Medical Academy but he did not know on what subject. At another point he had mentioned Flury of Wurzburg but again did not say on what he was working. He did say that Wirth was head of the section of Toxicology of the Military Medical Academy but added that this was no secret. He said that he knew Klieve as head of the Diagnostic Lab in Giessen and that he was now in Berlin but he did not know what he was doing. He said that Klieve was interested in disinfection and pointed to his book on the shelf. Rodenwald said he had been in Berlin less than 3 weeks ago and described it as a dead city. Asked about BW he said that in his opinion it was of no scientific value and gave as his reason its uncontrollable effects and named the spread of dysentery in Gallipoli in the last war. Brought over by the Australians it rapidly spread and affected the German and Turkish troops. He said that it had been discussed but he did not know by whom and said that no work had been done on it by the Germans.

He had heard that the Russians had a fully equipped laboratory on the shores of Lake Baikal in Siberia. He had never heard any suggestion that they had used it, nor did he know on what they were supposed to have been working. He said in reply to a leading question that naturally he would have been consulted had the question ever been contemplated or expected from the enemy. He gave us the impression that he would never tell us anything that he considered a military secret as exemplified by his professed ignorance of Wirth's work about which he almost certainly knew the subject.

After lunch went to Darmstadt and saw round Mercks. The factory was moderately damaged and nothing was going on. There were a few men in the chemistry labs and they said the biology labs had been destroyed and transferred to the chemistry side. The firm had not been engaged on Kriegs production but only on Wehr production so had not had great priority and had lost a large number of its skilled workers. Their main work had been the production of vitamins and some of their other well known drugs such as doryl and its derivatives.

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They did very little bacteriological work. A few grams of their new synthetic eupapaverine was obtained.

After dinner we all had a long discussion about the possible value of Rodenwald as a source of information on BW. It was unanimously agreed that he probably knew more than he told us and he was obviously very security conscious. It was decided to recommend his seizure as a PW and to give him a further interrogation by Bill and Jesse whom he had not seen before sending him to a special interrogation centre.

5th Apr. 9.00 Carl and I set off for Frankfurt to collect the reports from the Serum institute and I.G. at Hoechst. We went almost the whole way on undamaged autobahn right to the edge of Frankfurt. The surface was untouched and only one partial obstruction due to a blown over-bridge. The road was dull and went through woods most of the way. They are wonderful roads with no crossings and elaborate entrances and exits at infrequent intervals. Frankfurt was badly damaged and we went to the State serum institute in the east of the river. This was only slightly damaged and still guarded by T force. The acting director was held in his room and had been preparing his report. His name was Albrecht and he spoke no English. He had prepared a most detailed account of all the sera that had passed through their hands during the war years and in answer to questions told us where all these things were made. The principle is that all sera made by private firms must be tested by the state serum institute before being sold to the public. There is an elaborate system whereby their inspectors visit the firms on request and take a sample from a big batch and then lock up the remainder and keep the keys. The sample is taken back to Frankfurt and there assayed. This of course only applies to products which are capable of biological assay. Most of the sera in which we were interested, anthrax plague etc does not come to them. But they know where everything is produced. Thus all anthrax serum comes from Marburg, Plague from Hamburg and Vienna and one other laboratory. Glanders is only made at the Army Veterinary research institute in Berlin under Richters. For rabies there are three state institutes in Germany. The striking thing about the data was the low production of tetanus toxoid and the rise in diphtheria anti-toxin during the war.

Had lunch at T force mess where we met Rosenberg and a small party from Aachen who were down for the day. Henze got into trouble with T force because of the brief reports on targets that they had submitted. These had to be rewritten on the spot and give more data on the state of the buildings and personalities etc.

After lunch visited the I.G. works at Hoechst which is a vast place without a broken window pane. The director of the whole works is a man named Laugenschlager who is also director of all research and is a chemist and a doctor. He is an elderly man who was polite and took us into his board room which was a very impressive place though dark and cold. He had a scheme of all research done and the names of those doing it. All branches of biological work were being investigated and they had got a pilot plant for penicillin. We did not go round as Carl had already seen the place and it was very large. They did a little work on bacterial antigens and all organisms were surface grown. They were interested in the acridine-sulphonamide compounds. I tried unsuccessfully to get a sample of pure marfanil but they only had the usual 10% mixture with sulphonamide.

On returning through heavy rain we found that Rodenwald had not yet been picked up but steps were in hand for this to happen tomorrow.

Alsos has taken over a little restaurant just up the road which will be a welcome change from the mess down town. It is difficult to get over the bridge and the mess is filthy and the serving disgustingly unhygienic. The restaurant has its German proprietor and his wife and an assistant who are willing to work for their food.

6th Apr. Began to write report on Heidelberg and this diary.

Rodenwald was apprehended and his house taken over for Alsos as future offices. In the afternoon he was brought in and questioned by Bill and Jesse. He repeated what he had told us and said that he only remembers informal talks on BW round the dinner table in Berlin. He said the report about the Russians was just a bit of general talk and he could not recall the source. When told that perhaps the Russians might be interested to hear his story his attitude suddenly changed and his stiff formality dropped as he protested that if he had known anything about BW he would be glad to tell it. He was sent to a special forward-interrogation centre to be held there until it was thought that all possible information had been extracted from him.

In the afternoon walked through the town and up to the castle. The streets were filled with civilians who appear quite indifferent with a certain passive sullenness. The shops are all shut and there is little to see in their windows. In contrast to Paris there is a complete absence of the junkety trinket shops full of sham jewellery. The people looked pale and ill-clothed except for a few well dressed women. Crossing the bridge met Adamson who is interviewing Kuhn. He seems to think he is all right and apparently was over with him in 1939.

Paris

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Augustine returned from delivering the general and they
how they are to handle him.

Apr 7th Carl and I visited the PW centre situated in a lovely house on the hill at the edge of the Rhine valley just before Darmstadt. This whole run from Heidelberg is through almost undamaged country and villages and is a mass of little fields and orchards with women hard at work in them. They extend well up the steep sides of the hills. At the centre we saw the interrogation officers who were apparently very busy and said that all field officers and above have to go through these centres. We told them what we could about the general and how he might be approached. They were going to try soft tactics first and also monitor him. If there seemed to be any clue that he knew more than he had told we might reinterrogate him. We were not impressed by the mental calibre of these men and they were hardly suitable for trying to get scientific information from anyone. Bill and Jesse went off to Frankfurt to the Hygiene institute to get the report from there. They were told that this had been removed by an American colonel who said it was his affair. They also visited the Kalle works at Wiesbaden. These were about half destroyed. They asked about their tanks at Cologne and said they had been hoping for them. They were to be used for growing mesentericus in order to produce an enzyme 'Biolase' used in some cellulose manufacturing process. The point about these new tanks was that they were made to rock unlike to old ones.

Further plans were discussed and Carl and Bill decided to go back to Paris to write up reports and get a change of clothes etc. Also there had been a note from Eckmann that Carl was to be withdrawn for service with the surgeon general's office and it was necessary to clear this up. Jesse and I were to go to Wurzburg. At present we have no orders to any army groups owing to the usual efficiency of the central office. Two letters arrived from Ruth via road from Paris. Gave one to Qi to post in Paris.

8th Apr. Jesse and I set off with a CIC driver in a jeep. This man is quite useless except as a driver and speaks no German and generally seems a bit more dumb than the average CIC man. We had a letter from Pash as our only introduction to T Force. There was little data about the route and it seemed to be the opinion that the direct route was not clear. As a result we went via Darmstadt to Aschaffenburg. Both these towns, especially the latter, are extensively damaged though the roads are in quite good condition. We went on to Lohr and there we went three times round the town trying to follow directions to the MP control point. They were all new and had no information about the route. We were then given directions which included crossing the river a few miles out of town on a ferry and then the road was said to be clear. The main road was still blocked by fighting. We got to the ferry and the sergeant in charge said he would take us across but could not guarantee to bring us back as he was packing up at any moment. He said that he had been ferrying across tanks all the previous afternoon to clear out a pocket. He had not seen them again so he assumed all was well. He said there had been a little traffic across and as far as he knew the road was clear. We hesitated especially as the road across the river quickly went into woods and was only a very 3rd class one in any case. It was a bright sunny morning and we decided to risk it and went across. The villagers in the hamlet on the other side looked very curiously at us and we set off. We were soon in the woods and also on the wrong road as we had failed to recognise ours which was in fact little more than a track. It then deteriorated even more to a mere cart track running through the fields. Then we came to a small bridge over a narrow but deep little gorge. The bridge was gone. We were almost turning back when we saw another bridge across the field and made our way over that. The road was by now a wet muddy track with many ruts etc running on the river edge. There were many barges tied up alongside and their crews came out to have a look. There had been few if any ~~road~~ vehicles over here before. We went through two villages where again we were the objects of great curiosity and then finally hit the main road just the other side of the blown bridge. Here we were very glad to see a few American troops. The rest of the way to Wurzburg was over good road and we got in just after two. We were directed to T Force lodged in a brewery and got a pass and were given an interpreter as they did not seem to be very busy. We were given a space on the floor for our beds in the director's house which was very crowded and in a frightful mess. With our sergeant interpreter we went off to the Hygiene institute which was in the grounds of a big hospital with all the other medical institutes. The place had been badly knocked about and there were a number of large bomb craters in the roads. The institute was without a roof and most of its top storey but the rest was in fact but it had not been used since the raid on Mar 16th. A nun followed us in and told us where the director lived a few miles out of town. There was little to see and all documents had been removed and there was no interesting apparatus to be seen.

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A1505 Mission
Darm (Germany) 1945

Preservation Review Object Removal Form

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271082 Boris

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Object Description:

1 folded oversized map

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